Smash the Line!

The primary objective of the American men on the western front is to smash the enemy's line, to drive him back, weakened in morale and strategic position, until he is finally beaten.

The chiefs of the allied armies have been forced to rank suppression of vice and prevention of venereal diseases among the great problems of the war.

Venereal diseases are the "camp-followers" of prostitution and alcohol. They are a triple alliance behind the lines, and as much the foes of an army as the enemies in front.

Prostitution, alcohol and venereal diseases must be beaten, just as the enemy in front must be beaten, or they may cripple, even defeat, an army.

A soldier with syphilis or gonorrhœa, and one with a wound, are both out of the fighting and a drain on an army. But the former is the more serious, for his disability was preventable and in acquiring it he did not register a blow against the enemy in front but literally gave a victory to the enemy behind the lines. Nor does the consequence of his defection end there, for he may become a carrier of disease among his comrades.

During the first year of the war one nation had more men disabled from venereal diseases than from wounds and disabilities incident upon warfare.

A regiment stationed in a training camp sustained greater casualties from venereal diseases than did another (recruited at the time) in one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

The stronghold of this triple alliance for evil is the segregated or red-light district—the so-called "line." Here, prostitution,

fortified by official tolerance and supposed medical inspection, is strongest. It is in this segregated district, popular misconception to the contrary, that venereal diseases have their widest opportunity to spread, insidiously as a poison-gas attack, and wreak greatest havoc. A careful study shows that the majority of infections have resulted from commercialized vice, for the medical inspection of prostitutes is inevitably inadequate and futile. It is in the segregated district, too, that alcohol is invaluable as an aid to prostitution.

Remember that this problem of prostitution is a problem of public health as well as of morals; that the venereal diseases, in their malignancy, communicability, prevalence, and after-effects, constitute a more serious menace than any of the well-known diseases, such as typhoid, tuberculosis, or smallpox, all of which the community is fast learning to control.

We are warned to cherish no illusions as to the possibility of getting rid of the human instincts and appetites to which commercialized vice caters. But let us cherish no illusions either as to the indisputable fact that the volume of commercialized vice and of its by-product, disease, varies according as the attitude of the community toward vice is favorable, tolerant, or antagonistic. The effects of favor or tolerance to-day in the neighborhood of soldiers' camps and in the cities through which they pass will inevitably be seen in large percentages on the sick list instead of on the firing line.

It is a matter of community history that, *once smashed, this line of evil strength is never reorganized.* Why? Because, not segregation, but constant and persistent repression has proved the most effective method of fighting prostitution and its concomitant evils.

Every member of a community is commissioned by a national as well as a civic responsibility to become an active factor in the elimination of segregated districts.

THE TWO SIDES

It is claimed that SEGREGATION:—	*The truth is that* SEGREGATION:—
1. Concentrates prostitution, thus facilitating control and reduction.	1. Increases prostitution, continually advertising vice by making it familiar. Affords a place of commerce, otherwise uncertain and precarious, to the least competent of prostitutes, mentally and physically.
2. Decreases prostitution by regulation.	2. Increases prostitution by increasing the demand, which increases the supply.
3. Decreases venereal diseases through medical inspection.	3. Increases venereal diseases by deceiving the ignorant into a fancied reliance upon a frequently "faked" and inevitably futile medical inspection.
4. Enables control of the liquor traffic in connection with prostitution.	4. Stimulates an illegal liquor traffic, since commercialized vice fails without liquor.
5. Prevents crimes against women.	5. Tends to increase crimes against women by fostering promiscuity and providing a source of sexual brutalization and degeneracy.
6. Protects the community from offensive and detrimental proximity of prostitution.	6. Exposes the community by advertising vice as a community necessity, making it easily accessible and tolerated, a condition conducive to the moral degradation of the community.
7. Decreases graft in connection with prostitution, and the exploitation of the prostitute.	7. Increases graft, by illegal toleration of commercialized vice, tempting the police to exact illegal revenue and confer illegal privilege. Gives free rein to the exploitation of prostitutes.
8. Decreases crime by enabling police supervision of a recognized crime center.	8. Increases crime by fostering viciousness and disease, providing a meeting-place for the idle and vicious, with whom, rather than with the police, the prostitutes sympathize and usually coöperate.
9. Safeguards against sexual perversions by providing an outlet for the unrestrained sexual appetites of men.	9. Fosters sexual perversions and abnormalities by educating men in habits of promiscuous sex relations until they cannot be satisfied by the professional prostitute except by perversions which she is compelled to practice.
10. Protects boys and young men from contact with the prostitute by removing temptation from the streets and residence districts.	10. Exposes boys and young men to contact with the prostitute by presenting an ever-present opportunity to "go down the line and see the sights." Provides a show-place for special obscene and depraved exhibitions, to which the youth is lured by "runners" and the sale of lewd pictures.

SUMMARY

SEGREGATION DOES NOT SEGREGATE

The bulk of prostitution is never confined to a single locality. Most prostitutes don't and won't live in a red-light district if they can help it, since it contains, as a rule, only a comparatively small number of hardened prostitutes, the mental ineffectives and defectives and those eaten up by venereal disease. These accept the district as inevitable because it offers a mart for the barter of their wares, inasmuch as they are incapable of competing with the shrewder and more attractive free-lance prostitute who operates by choice outside the district.

SEGREGATION INCREASES PROSTITUTION

Segregation increases the demand for prostitutes and inexorably this demand increases the supply. The known existence of a red-light district, its adventitious glamor to the uninitiated, its ease of access—these are a persistent lure to boys with a taste for adventure and men with ungoverned sexual appetites. The hideous excesses required of inmates of houses of prostitution quickly render them diseased and unattractive, and others must be drafted into service.

SEGREGATION AUGMENTS SYPHILIS AND GONORRHŒA

Medical inspection, a supposed benefit of segregation, is inevitably inadequate. Concealment of venereal infection by prostitutes is possible in a large number of cases, and the physician's opportunity for diagnosis is limited. Further, there is a temptation to issue false "health certificates" for a substantial fee. Regardless of a "clean bill of health," the prostitute's condition is no less dangerous. For there is no way of inspecting the man, and *the prostitute may become a conveyor of disease germs through the first man she serves after receiving the "health certificate."* She may be a disease carrier without showing infection.

SEGREGATION INCITES ILLEGAL LIQUOR TRAFFIC

There is a recognized partnership between the red-light district and the illegal liquor traffic. The house of prostitution must have liquor to stimulate its guests to debauchery—to "promote good fellowship." Efforts to control the segregated districts by elimination of saloons and liquor-selling dance halls have invariably

resulted in wholesale violations and evasions of the liquor laws. To a large extent, prostitution is artificially stimulated by those who have commercialized it, and liquor is the chief agent for "whipping it up" to the point where it yields the greatest dividends to its backers. Commercialization is seriously handicapped without segregation.

Segregation creates an illegally privileged class. It benefits only, as a rule, the worst type of prostitutes who, otherwise, could not gain a livelihood by their trade, and unscrupulous property owners to whom it is the source of inflated rentals wrung from this market-place for the barter of human bodies.

Segregation is the enemy of health, morality, economic efficiency and good government. It facilitates the spread of two of the communicable diseases most dangerous to men, women, and children—gonorrhœa and syphilis!

It lowers the moral tone of the individual and the community. It results in millions of dollars of waste by increasing prostitution and disease. It undermines good government because the object of good government is "to make it easy for the citizen to do right and difficult for him to do wrong."

There are two vitally important reasons why every citizen must fight the segregated district:—

1. Because the elimination of the segregated district and consequent repression of prostitution will be mighty factors in winning the war!

2. Because, in this way only, can the finest civilization be promoted, the highest ideals and the greatest economic efficiency be developed—after the war is won!

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

It is a matter of urgent military efficiency that the community be made safe for the soldier.

It is the business of the War Department to see that the soldier is made safe for the community.

This is YOUR business, whether you be citizen or soldier.

Published originally by The War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities.

"The War Department will not tolerate the existence of any restricted district within an effective radius of the camp. Experience has proved that such districts in the vicinity of army camps, no matter how conducted, are inevitably attended by unhappy consequences. The only practical policy which presents itself in relation to this problem is the policy of absolute repression, and I am confident that in taking this course the War Department has placed itself in line with the best thought and practice which modern police experience has developed. This policy involves, of course, constant vigilance on the part of the police, not only in eliminating regular houses of prostitution, but in checking the more or less clandestine class that walks the streets and is apt to frequent lodging houses and hotels."

NEWTON D. BAKER.

Extract from a letter sent by the Secretary of War to the mayors of the cities and the sheriffs of the counties in the neighborhood of all military training camps. August 10, 1917.

OTHER PAMPHLETS

The following pamphlets, explaining the campaign against venereal disease and presenting the true facts of sex in a wholesome manner, will be sent to any address without charge:

Set A. For young men.
Set B. For public officers and business men.
Set C. For boys.
Set D. For parents of children.
Set E. For girls and young women.
Set F. For educators.

Send for only those pamphlets for which you have definite use. Address:

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Augusta, Maine.

Sexual Hygiene for Young Men

By William T. Belfield, M.D.

Professor of Genito-Urinary Surgery, Rush Medical College, University of Chicago, Secretary of the Chicago Society of Social Hygiene

The average young man receives no information about sexual matters at home; but he gets it abroad, from ignorant associates, and through secret experiences—often at serious loss of health, money, self-respect, and business success. In the hope that some who read this leaflet may thereby escape such needless sacrifice, some facts well known to all physicians are herewith presented.

SELF-ABUSE [1]

The first function of the reproductive organs is to rebuild the boy into a man. A boy deprived of these organs in childhood (by castration) never becomes a perfect man in either body or mind; and a boy who abuses these organs before he attains manhood risks the loss of the manly perfection that he might otherwise attain. Most of these boys fortunately discontinue this habit before permanent injury is sustained.

SEMINAL EMISSIONS [2]

These occur during sleep in perfectly healthy young men; they do not indicate an unhealthy condition of the sexual organs unless they take place oftener than once in ten to fourteen days. The so-called medical museums and newspaper advertisements and pamphlets of quacks are designed to frighten ignorant boys and young men into paying heavily for unnecessary treatment.

When emissions occur too frequently the cause is often sexual excitement in thought or deed, lack of physical exercise, overeating,

[1] *Self-abuse* is the common expression for the medical term masturbation, which is used to designate the excitement of the sex organs by friction with the hand.

[2] *Seminal emissions* is the medical phrase for discharge of fluid from the sex organs of the male during sleep.

or drinking of alcoholic beverages. All these habits are injurious to the body in general and to the sexual organs in particular. A young man who takes plenty of muscular exercise, eats moderately, avoids constipation and alcoholic drinks, and keeps his attention diverted from lewd subjects, will seldom need medical treatment for seminal emissions.

ADVERTISING "SPECIALISTS"

Most boys and young men receive no information whatever concerning sexual matters from their fathers, or other honest, friendly counselors. Fathers, however careful and conscientious in the instruction of their sons in all other matters, shirk this duty because it is a delicate and unpleasant task. Because of this ignorance, young men become the easy dupes of the numerous confidence operators who in paid advertisements style themselves "specialists," etc., and profess to be skilled in the treatment of "nervous debility," "lost manhood," "varicocele," etc. These men know that most boys have practised or learned something about self-abuse; that all young men have nocturnal emissions; that few young men consult their fathers about these matters; hence boys and youths swallow as truth the stuff which the "specialist" cunningly prints.

Probably half the young men in the country have been at some time secretly terrified by reading in such advertisements that nocturnal seminal emissions are evidences of grave disease of the sexual organs which will surely result in insanity, "loss of manhood," etc., unless the frightened youth employs the marvelous skill of the advertiser. And the ignorant boy, being ashamed or afraid to consult his father about the matter, falls into the trap.

Reputable clergymen, lawyers, and physicians never solicit business by advertising; beware of the doctor who does so. The young man should seek medical advice from his family physician whom he can safely trust as honest adviser and confidential friend. A few words of sound medical advice often save a young man months of secret, needless alarm, as well as considerable money.

SEXUAL INDULGENCE IS NOT NECESSARY TO HEALTH

Many young men harbor the erroneous idea that the reproductive organs, like the muscles, are developed through exercise and become weak through disuse. If that were true, the boy who exer-

cises them regularly from his tenth year onward should have the greatest sexual power—but everyone knows this to be the reverse of the truth. The testes are glands producing a fluid, like the tear glands or the sweat glands. The sexual power is never lost through abstinence from sexual intercourse, any more than the ability to weep is lost through abstinence from weeping. Impotence, or "loss of manhood," is usually the direct result of gonorrhœa [1] or syphilis [2] (venereal diseases [3]) or of sexual excesses.

That sexual intercourse is, so far as mere physical health is concerned, absolutely unnecessary, is easily shown; the mere fact that the exemplars of physical prowess in all ages, including Roman gladiators and modern pugilists, have commonly abstained from sexual intercourse during the long periods of strenuous training for the physical perfection essential to successful combat, is expert evidence that sexual indulgence is not essential to supreme physical health; and it is notorious that the premature downfall of many professional pugilists of our day is due to excesses with women and wine when they are not in training. Two of the most famous amateur athletes that the writer has known intimately—one a noted heavyweight boxer, the other the pride of a university baseball nine—abstained entirely from sexual indulgence (and incidentally from alcoholics); and there are many such.

SELF-CONTROL IS A MARK OF MANLINESS, NOT OF EFFEMINACY

In the egotism of early manhood, we "know it all"; we are vain, impulsive, well-meaning beginners, with exuberant spirits and little wisdom—the latter grows with the penalties that punish our ignorant mistakes. One of these mistaken ideas is that self-indulgence, especially with wine and women, is the mark of manliness; and that a young man who refuses to join his comrades in getting

[1] *Gonorrhœa,* often called "the clap," is a dangerous communicable disease caused by a germ called the gonococcus. It produces an inflammation of the urinary channel and may extend into the deeper tissues, or into the joints and other parts of the body. It frequently results in a chronic discharge called gleet.

[2] *Syphilis* is a dangerous communicable disease caused by a specific germ called the treponema pallida. The terms lues and pox also apply to this disease. Advertisements of so-called sex remedies frequently speak of syphilis as "blood poison."

[3] *Venereal disease* is a term used to include gonorrhœa and syphilis.

drunk, or visiting lewd women, is an effeminate "goody-goody." The fear of such ridicule has been the chief reason for much drunkenness and venereal disease.

With more years and wisdom, young men realize that a man gets drunk not because he has physical strength and courage, but because he lacks mental strength and courage; not because he is strong, but because he is weak. The folly of drunkenness ruins far less young men now than it did fifty years ago.

The folly of patronizing prostitutes and contracting their venereal diseases is gradually dawning on the rising generation, through education. One of the chief benefits of present-day athletics has been the demonstration to multitudes of young men that physical strength and courage are often combined with total abstinence from drunkenness and debauchery. Young men in increasing numbers are realizing that the control of their sex impulses is in the interest of their own careers and of their future wives and children.

SYPHILIS AND GONORRHŒA

(The Venereal Diseases)

1. Prostitutes, public or private, acquire venereal disease sooner or later; hence most of them are diseased some of the time, and some of them practically all of the time. The man who patronizes them risks his health at every exposure.

2. Medical inspection is an advantage to the business of the prostitute because it gives her patrons a sense of security. But inspection provides no real security, for even the most painstaking examination—and such is not bestowed upon the prostitute—may fail to detect a woman's lurking disease.

3. The many antiseptic washes, lotions, and injections upon which the ignorant rely for protection from disease, are inefficient, because the skin and mucous membranes into which the germs have quickly penetrated act as a wall, preventing the antiseptic from reaching them.

4. Gonorrhœa, while usually cured without apparent loss of health, has always serious possibilities. It is estimated that it ultimately kills at least one in two hundred; it permanently maims one in a hundred; it impairs the sexual power and fertility of a

much larger number; it often produces urethral stricture,[1] which later may cause loss of health and even of life; and in many cases it causes chronic pain and distress in the sexual organs, with severe mental depression. The loss of health, time, and money entailed by these sequels and their treatment may far exceed that occasioned by the original disease.

The prevalent notion among the uninformed that gonorrhœa is a mere annoyance, "no worse than a cold," is based entirely upon lamentable ignorance, and is absolutely false.

5. The persistence of this disease in the deeper parts long after it is outwardly cured, leads to the unsuspected communication of the disease to women with whom the individual may cohabit. Among these women may be his bride, who thereupon enters upon a period of ill-health that may ultimately compel the mutilation of her sexual organs by a surgical operation or cause the loss of her life. Much of the surgery of these organs performed upon women has been rendered necessary by gonorrhœa contracted from the husband. Should she, while infected[2] with this disease, give birth to a child, the baby's eyes may be attacked by the infection, sometimes with loss of sight.

6. The other serious venereal disease, syphilis, infects the blood and therewith all parts of the body. For months after infection with this disease, the individual may communicate it by cohabitation or occasionally by personal contact, such as a kiss; and articles moistened by his secretions—towels, drinking glasses, pipes, etc.—may sometimes convey the infection. While, under proper treatment, the disease is not dangerous to the individual's life in the earlier years, yet the possibilities of transmitting the contagion should forbid his marriage for at least three years, or longer if the physician so advises.

7. The most serious results of syphilis appear years after its acquisition, when the individual has been lulled into a false sense of security by long freedom from its manifestations, and considers himself cured. It may attack any organ of the body; among the

[1] *Urethral stricture* means an abnormal narrowing of the canal which conveys urine from the bladder to the surface of the body. In the male this canal also carries the semen when it is discharged during sexual intercourse.

[2] *Infection* is a medical word generally used to designate the process by which living disease-producing germs, after gaining entrance to the body, grow and injure the tissues.

many diseases produced are apoplexy,[1] paralysis,[2] insanity,[3] and locomotor ataxia;[4] and these often appear after the man has a family dependent upon him for support.

8. The disaster to the individual wrought by syphilis is shown in the attitude of the leading insurance companies toward those so infected—a purely business proposition devoid of all sentimental considerations. They refuse to insure the life of a syphilitic person for four or five years after the disease was contracted, and then only upon special terms, for their records prove that syphilis shortens life, and that the death rate for those who have had syphilis is double the rate for those who have never contracted it.

9. That the syphilitic parent may transmit the disease to his offspring is common knowledge; some of his children are destroyed by the inherited disease [5] before birth; others are born to a brief and sickly span of life; others attain maturity, seriously handicapped by a burden of ill-health, incapacity, and misery produced by the inherited taint; while still others apparently escape these evil effects.

10. The man who contracts either gonorrhœa or syphilis should realize that the best use he can make of his time and money is in having the disease promptly and thoroughly treated. He should consult an honest, competent physician immediately—not an advertising faker. He should waste no time in trying some drug-store remedy, or some medicine recommended by a friend; he would not have his broken leg treated that way, yet these diseases are far more serious than a broken bone, since they may destroy health or even life itself. The sooner he secures skilful treatment, the better is his chance of escaping these disasters. If he has no money he can secure free treatment at a dispensary. Moreover, he should understand that an apparent cure is not always a real cure; the germs of gonorrhœa or of syphilis may lurk in the deeper parts long after the outward symptoms have disappeared. Only a com-

[1] *Apoplexy* refers to sudden paralysis and profound stupor caused by bleeding into the brain or spinal cord.

[2] *Paralysis* means a loss of motion or sensation in some part of the body.

[3] *Insanity*, in medical language, means disorder of the mental faculties, more or less permanent in character but without loss of consciousness or will.

[4] *Locomotor ataxia* means failure of muscular coordination and other changes due to degeneration of certain parts of the spinal cord and sensory nerves.

[5] *Inherited syphilis* means syphilis implanted in the child before birth.

petent physician can give intelligent and reliable assurance that the disease is really eradicated. Until such assurance is secured, the patient should not marry.

THE SINGLE STANDARD OF MORALITY

This leaflet has purposely been limited to facts about the functions and diseases of the sex organs. But every man should know that sex relations outside of marriage not only expose him to diseases which may prove disastrous to himself and to others, but will unfit him for his highest efficiency as citizen, husband, and father. Society has a right to expect that he shall set for younger men an example of self-respect and self-control. Moral living is not "goody-goody" effeminacy; it is based upon the experience and suffering of past generations. It has the backing of religious belief, but does not depend upon it. Both self-interest and love for others demand it. It is a part of true manhood.

This pamphlet was originally prepared for The Chicago Society of Social Hygiene in 1907.

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Augusta, Maine.

Permanent Organization
For Combating Venereal Diseases
The American Social Hygiene Association
105 West 40th Street, New York City